

# Region of Responsibility

We thought you might like to know—The Museum of the Cape is one of seven museums in the Division of State History Museums. We are one of three regional museums and our exhibits reflect a 20 county region. This series focuses on the history of those counties within our region of responsibility.

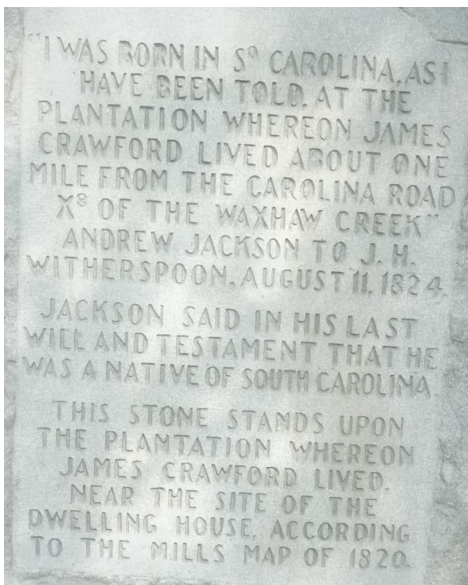


The 20 Counties in alphabetical order:

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Anson       | 11. Moore       |
| 2. Bladen      | 12. New Hanover |
| 3. Brunswick   | 13. Onslow      |
| 4. Columbus    | 14. Pender      |
| 5. Cumberland  | 15. Richmond    |
| 6. Duplin      | 16. Robeson     |
| 7. Harnett     | 17. Sampson     |
| 8. Hoke        | 18. Scotland    |
| 9. Lee         | 19. Stanly      |
| 10. Montgomery | 20. Union       |

## A Brief History of Union County

Bordering South Carolina to the north and Charlotte to the southeast, Union County was established in 1842 from both Mecklenburg and Anson counties. Before European contact, Waxhaw and Catawba natives inhabited the area. The Europeans that settled the area included German, Scotch-Irish, English, and Welsh.



The naming of the county was a compromise between the Whigs and the Democrats of the time. Each wanted to name it for their party's leader. For the Democrats that was Andrew Jackson, who was born in the area. (The Whigs wanted Henry Clay.) They agreed upon calling their new county "Union."

Andrew Jackson, 7th president of the United States, was elected from Tennessee, where he established a plantation, The Hermitage, whose website states that he was born near Lancaster, SC. Both SC and NC claim Jackson's birth. Both states do agree that he was born in the Waxhaws area, which straddles the present-day border.

In 1896, the Baptist churches established Wingate University. It was named for Washington Manly Wingate, a Baptist minister and a former president of Wake Forest College (at first acting president from 1854-1856, then president from 1856-1879).

On March 7, 1942, the military base, Camp Sutton, was officially dedicated. It served as a training facility as part of the country's preparation and build up during the early years of World War II. By 1943, POWs were sent there. One POW was a veteran of German Field Marshall Erwin Rommel's Afrika Corps.

A group of Freedom Riders visited the Union County town of Monroe in 1961 to teach youth how to demonstrate peacefully. Having been refused an appointment with the mayor, Fred Wilson, they protested in front of his dental office.